

What is claimed is:

1. A method for storing calibration data within image transfer media, comprising the step of embedding data specific to a measurement system into said image transfer media so that said data is retrievable by a custom application directly from said image transfer media, thereby allowing re-measurement without using a second transfer media for measurement system information.

2. A method for storing overlay replacement data within image transfer media, comprising the step of embedding data into said image transfer media so that a destructive overlay added to said image is visible using a standard image viewer, and image data that was replaced by said destructive overlay is reconstituted from said embedded data.

3. A method for storing audio data along with an image within a standard image transfer media which does not provide explicit support for storing audio data, comprising the step of writing said audio data to a marker in said media such that said image is visible using a standard image viewer, while said audio data is retrievable by a custom application.

4. A method for storing image data and corresponding image-specific data, comprising the step of storing a combination of image data and one or more of system calibration data, overlay replacement data, and audio comment data in a single file of either a non-standard file format or a standard file format that does not explicitly support the inclusion of these data types.

5. A method for storing, within an image transfer medium, an image and image-specific data associated with said image, comprising the steps of:

- obtaining said image-specific data;
- obtaining said image;
- choosing a specific image transfer medium;
- writing said image to said medium; and

writing said image-specific data to a marker in said medium.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said image is obtained from a probe and said image-specific data includes measurement tip calibration data from said probe.
7. A method according to claim 5, wherein said image-specific data includes overlay replacement data.
8. A method according to claim 5, wherein said image-specific data includes audio commentary data related to said image.
9. A method according to claim 5, wherein said specific image transfer medium is one of a JPEG file, a bitmap file, and a TIFF file.
10. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
 - determining when a command is received to clear an overlay from said image;
 - retrieving block data which contain information of said image obscured by said overlay; and
 - replacing said overlay with said information of said image.
11. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
 - determining if said image-specific data is contained in said image transfer medium; and
 - retrieving said image-specific data from said image transfer medium.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said image is obtained from a probe and said image-specific data includes measurement tip calibration data from said probe.
13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said image-specific data includes overlay replacement data.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein said image-specific data includes audio commentary data related to said image.

15. A system for storing calibration data within image transfer media, comprising means for embedding data specific to a measurement system into said image transfer media so that said data is retrievable by a custom application directly from said image transfer media, thereby allowing re-measurement without using a second transfer media for measurement system information.

16. A system for storing overlay replacement data within image transfer media, comprising means for embedding data into said image transfer media so that a destructive overlay added to said image is visible using a standard image viewer, and image data that was replaced by said destructive overlay is reconstituted from said embedded data.

17. A system for storing audio data along with an image within a standard image transfer media which does not provide explicit support for storing audio data, comprising means for writing said audio data to a marker in said image transfer media such that said image is visible using a standard image viewer, while said audio data is retrievable by a custom application.

18. A system for storing image data and corresponding image-specific data, comprising means for storing a combination of image data and one or more of system calibration data, overlay replacement data, and audio comment data in a single file of either a non-standard file format or a standard file format that does not explicitly support the inclusion of these data types.

19. A system for storing, within an image transfer medium, an image and image-specific data associated with said image, comprising:

- means for obtaining said image-specific data;
- means for obtaining said image;
- means for choosing a specific image transfer medium;

means for writing said image to said medium; and
means for writing said image-specific data to a marker in said medium.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein said image is obtained from a probe and said image-specific data includes measurement tip calibration data from said probe.

21. A system according to claim 19, wherein said image-specific data includes overlay replacement data.

22. A system according to claim 19, wherein said image-specific data includes audio commentary data related to said image.

23. A system according to claim 19, wherein said specific image transfer medium is one of a JPEG file, a bitmap file, and a TIFF file.

24. A system according to claim 19, further comprising:
means for determining when a command is received to clear an overlay from said image;
means for retrieving block data which contain information of said image obscured by said overlay; and
means for replacing said overlay with said information of said image.

25. A system according to claim 19, further comprising:
means for determining if said image-specific data is contained in said image transfer medium; and
means for retrieving said image-specific data from said image transfer medium.

26. A system according to claim 25, wherein said image is obtained from a probe and said image-specific data includes measurement tip calibration data from said probe.

27. A system according to claim 25, wherein said image-specific data includes overlay replacement data.

28. A system according to claim 25, wherein said image-specific data includes audio commentary data related to said image.